

The President's Daily Brief

September 15, 1976

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

September 15, 1976

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LATE ITEM

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[redacted] Soviets [redacted]

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USSR: *The latest satellite photography shows that the Soviets have started dismantling 26 additional older ICBM launchers--16 SS-7s and 10 SS-8s. They now have 35 launchers fully dismantled and are in the process of dismantling 44 others. By now the Soviets should have at least 51 launchers fully dismantled and work on 28 others in process.*

All 53 SS-7 launchers--44 above-ground and 9 silos--where dismantling activity had been previously noted were photographed between August 3 and September 6. In addition, 136 of the remaining 137 SS-7 launchers, all 19 SS-8 launchers, and two of the seven older H-II class submarines were photographed.

To be in accord with the dismantling procedures of the Standing Consultative Commission, the Soviets should have had 51 launchers fully dismantled by about March 1. Only eight launchers met all of the criteria to be considered fully dismantled by that date, although 43 others were partially dismantled.

In early April the Soviets, after admitting they had failed to meet the schedule, stated that they would have all of the launchers dismantled by June 1. On that date they notified the US that all 51 launchers were dismantled or destroyed in accordance with agreed procedures.

On the basis of the latest photography, only 35 launchers can be considered fully dismantled. At launch sites containing 16 other launchers not all of the required procedures have been completed, but dismantling or destruction has progressed to a point where the sites are unusable and could not be returned to operational service in substantially less time than would be required to construct a new launch facility.

A total of 28 additional SS-7 and SS-8 launchers have been identified in the initial stages of dismantling in the past two months.

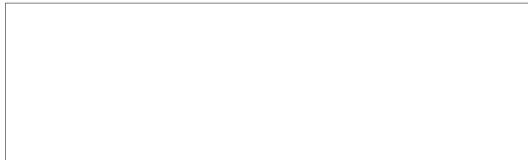
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This is the number required to compensate for the SLBM launchers on the new submarines that entered sea trials this summer. Sixteen of these should be fully dismantled in early October and the other 12 by about December 1.

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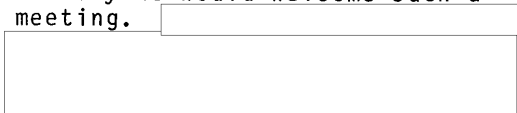
LEBANON: Arab mediators have proposed a meeting of Yasir Arafat, Lebanese president-elect Sarkis, and Syrian Prime Minister Khulayfawi in another attempt to implement the Damascus accord.

The Damascus accord, concluded between Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organization in late July, calls for a cease-fire, Palestinian adherence to the restrictive Cairo accords, and the opening of roundtable negotiations under Sarkis.

Christian leaders reportedly would favor such a gathering only if President Franjiyah were represented. Sarkis apparently has indicated that he would not attend before his inauguration without Franjiyah's approval.

Syrian President Asad has not yet commented on the proposal but presumably he would welcome such a meeting.

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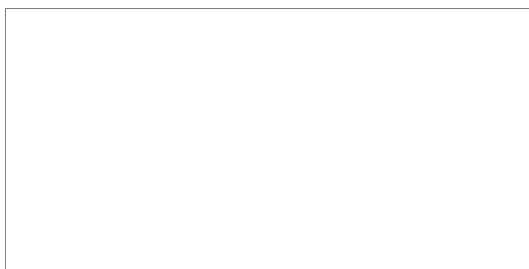
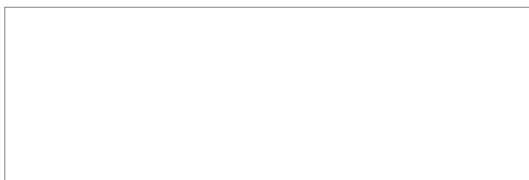
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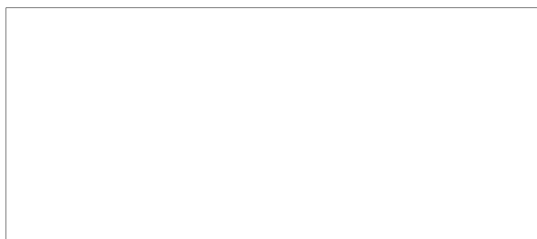
The pro-leftist radio in Beirut^{25X1} announced yesterday that the PLO and its leftist allies had approved the meeting. Even if an understanding could be reached at the meeting, Arafat would still have to face the stiff opposition of Salah Khalaf and other Fatah extremists.

The meeting last weekend between Khalaf and the Syrians, ^{25X1}

^{25X1} apparently did end in deadlock, presumably over Khalaf's insistence that Syria withdraw its forces from Lebanon. Arafat has told Damascus that he is prepared to accept an indefinite Syrian military presence in Lebanon.

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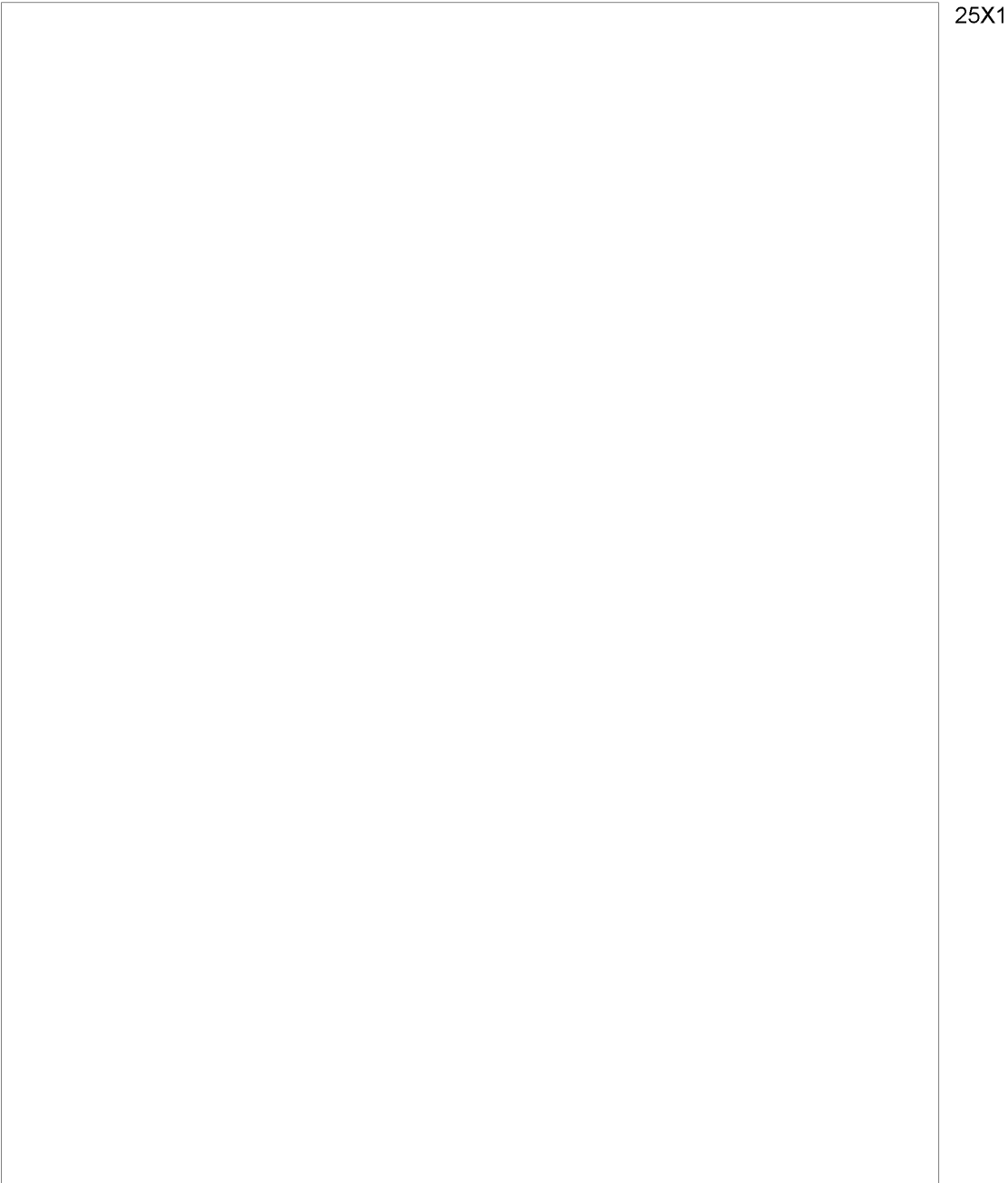
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CHINA: *From recent satellite photography we have obtained further evidence of the damage caused in China by the earthquake on July 28.*

As shown in the before-and-after photos on these pages, housing areas throughout Tang-shan, a city of 1 million persons, were virtually destroyed. Heavy destruction was observed over an area covering roughly 160 x 65 kilometers (99 x 40 miles).

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Preliminary analysis reveals that damage to industrial plants in the Tang-shan area ranges from light to extensive: some plants suffered little exterior damage; others were totally destroyed.

At the railroad rolling-stock plant shown in these pictures, all of the production buildings sustained heavy damage.

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NOTES

Total Soviet agricultural production this year, including crops and livestock, will be about the same as in the poor year of 1975.

An increase in crop production of about 19 percent will be offset by a drop of an estimated 13 percent in output of livestock products--the result of earlier distress slaughtering.

This year's improved crop prospects reduce the Soviet need for imports of agricultural commodities, notably grain, and will release for export greater quantities of other products--cotton, sugar, and vegetable oil.

Unless there are quality problems with this year's grain crop--which we estimate will be 200 million metric tons--we expect the Soviets to hold grain purchases to about 14 million tons. At current prices, purchases of this size would cost roughly between \$2 and \$2.5 billion compared with the almost \$4.5 billion worth of grain purchased last year.

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Soviets

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The Panamanian government, after two days of demonstrations spurred by economic discontent, is likely to press harder for movement in the canal treaty negotiations to distract its domestic critics.

The protests were clearly anti-government, with almost no anti-US overtones, and were prompted primarily by recent price rises.



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Government Chief Torrijos has several options, including lowering some prices, pressing even harder for a resumption of treaty talks, and pushing for action at this year's UN General Assembly. Torrijos, with the National Guard solidly behind him, does not yet face a serious threat, but domestic pressures are mounting and the erosion of his popularity could prompt him to act without fully considering the possible results.

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